

What is Claimed Is:

1. An alarm for a container including an enclosure defining an interior volume for holding tools or other belongings, a door adapted to move between an open position allowing access to the interior volume of the enclosure and a closed position for closing the enclosure, and a trip having a tripped condition and an untripped condition, the alarm comprising:

a trip sensor operable between a first condition when the trip is in its untripped condition and a second condition when the trip is changed to its second condition; and

a circuit adapted to sense the condition of the trip sensor, the circuit being adapted to drive an output when the trip sensor is in its second condition.

2. The alarm according to Claim 1, the trip sensor further comprising being adapted to sense the position of a latch actuator for a latch of the container, the latch actuator being the trip, the latch moveable between a latched position to secure the door to the enclosure when the door is in its closed position and an unlatched position wherein relative movement of the door and enclosure is permitted, and the actuator operatively connected to the latch in a manner so that movement of the actuator from an untripped position to a tripped position causes the latch to move from its latched position to its unlatched position, the tripped condition of the trip being the latch actuator being in its tripped position.

3. The alarm according to Claim 2, the trip sensor further comprising being further adapted to sense the position of a lock of the container, the lock to prevent opening of the door

when in a first position, to permit opening of the door when in a second position, the trip being the actuator and the lock, the tripped condition being the actuator in its tripped position and the lock being in its first position.

4. The alarm according to Claim 1, further comprising a power supply, the trip sensor connecting the power supply to the circuit when the trip sensor is in its second condition.

5. The alarm according to Claim 1, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a lock switch and an actuator switch connected in series.

6. The alarm according to Claim 1, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a reed switch, its second condition being closed.

7. The alarm according to Claim 1, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a magnetic switch.

8. The alarm according to Claim 1, further comprising a guide, the trip to slidably engage the guide, whereby the guide prevents relative movement between the trip and the trip sensor in at least one direction.

9. The alarm according to Claim 1, further comprising a housing containing the circuit and corresponding in shape to a lip of the container, whereby the alarm to mate with the lip.

10. The alarm according to Claim 1, further comprising an adaptor to couple to the trip and to engage the trip sensor when the trip is in its tripped position.

11. The alarm according to Claim 1, wherein the output further comprises an audible alert.

12. The alarm according Claim 1 wherein the trip moves generally axially to change from its untripped to its tripped condition.

13. The alarm according to Claim 1 wherein the output further comprises an LED, the LED mounted in a manner so that it is visible from outside of the container.

14. A container comprising:
an enclosure defining an interior volume for holding tools or other belongings;
a door adapted to move between an open position allowing access to the interior volume of the enclosure and a closed position for closing the enclosure;
a trip having a tripped condition and an untripped condition; and
an alarm comprising:

a trip sensor operable between a first condition when the trip is in its untripped condition and a second condition when the trip is changed to its second condition; and

a circuit adapted to sense the condition of the trip sensor, the circuit being adapted to drive an output when the trip sensor is in its second condition.

15. The container according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a latch moveable between a latched position to secure the door to the enclosure when the door is in its closed position and an unlatched position wherein relative movement of the door and enclosure is permitted,

a latch actuator being the trip and operatively connected to the latch in a manner so that movement of the actuator from an untripped position to a tripped position causes the latch to move from its latched position to its unlatched position, and

the trip sensor further adapted to sense the position of the latch actuator.

16. The container according to Claim 15, further comprising a lock to prevent opening of the door when in a first position, to permit opening of the door when in a second position, the trip sensor being further adapted to sense the position of the lock, the trip being the actuator and the lock, the tripped condition being the actuator in its tripped position and the lock being in its first position.

17. The container according to Claim 14, further comprising a power supply, the trip sensor connecting the power supply to the circuit when the trip sensor is in its second condition.

18. The container according to Claim 14, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a lock switch and an actuator switch connected in series.

19. The container according to Claim 14, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a reed switch, its second condition being closed.

20. The container according to Claim 14, wherein the trip sensor further comprises a magnetic switch.

21. The container according to Claim 14, further comprising a guide, the trip to slidably engage the guide, whereby the guide prevents relative movement between the trip and the trip sensor in at least one direction.

22. The container according to Claim 14, further comprising a housing containing the circuit and corresponding in shape to a lip of the container, whereby the alarm to mate with the lip.

23. The container according to Claim 14, further comprising an adaptor to couple to the trip and to engage the trip sensor when the trip is in its tripped position.

24. The container according Claim 14, wherein the trip moves generally axially to

change from its untripped to its tripped condition.

25. The container according to Claim 14, wherein the output further comprises an LED, the LED mounted in a manner so that it is visible from outside of the container.

26. A method of detecting unauthorized entry into a container including an enclosure defining an interior volume for holding tools or other belongings, a door adapted to move between an open position allowing access to the interior volume of the enclosure and a closed position for closing the enclosure, and a trip having a tripped condition and an untripped condition, the method comprising:

changing the trip from its untripped condition to its tripped condition;

sensing whether the trip is in the tripped position; and

triggering an alarm if the trip is in the tripped position.

27. The method according to Claim 26, further comprising the changing including moving a latch of the container from an latched position to an unlatched position using a latch actuator of the container, the latch securing the door to the enclosure when the door is in its closed position and the latch is in the latched position, the latch permitting relative movement of the door and enclosure when in the unlatched position, the latch actuator being the trip and operatively connected to the latch in a manner so that movement of the actuator from the untripped position to the tripped position causes the latch to move from its latched position to its unlatched position, the trip sensor further adapted to sense the position of the latch actuator.

28. The method according to Claim 27, further comprising sensing the position of a lock of the container, the lock to prevent opening of the door when in a first position, to permit opening of the door when in a second position, and the method further comprising triggering the alarm only if the lock is locked and the actuator is in its second condition.

29. The method according to Claim 26, further comprising providing power to a circuit if the trip is in its tripped position, the circuit sensing whether the trip is in its tripped position by receiving power.

30. The method according to Claim 26, further comprising guiding the trip to prevent relative motion in at least one direction between the actuator and the housing.

31. The method according to Claim 26, further comprising adapting a housing of the circuit to mate with a lip of the enclosure.

32. The method according to Claim 26, further comprising mating the housing to the lip of the enclosure.

33. An alarm for a container including an enclosure defining an interior volume for holding tools or other belongings, a door adapted to move between an open position allowing access to the interior volume of the enclosure and a closed position for closing the enclosure, a

latch moveable between a latched position to secure the door to the enclosure when the door is in its closed position and an unlatched position wherein relative movement of the door and enclosure is permitted, and an actuator operatively connected to the latch in a manner so that movement of the actuator from a first position to a second position causes the latch to move from its latched position to its unlatched position, the alarm comprising:

a power source;

a normally open actuator switch, the actuator adapted to close the actuator switch if the actuator moves from its first position to its second position, the actuator switch connected to the power source;

a circuit connected to the actuator switch to sense the position of the actuator switch by receiving power via the actuator switch; and

an output, the circuit to drive the output if the actuator switch is closed.

34. The alarm according to Claim 33 further comprising a power source.

35. The alarm according to Claim 34, wherein the power source is internal to the alarm.

36. An alarm for a container including an enclosure defining an interior volume for holding tools or other belongings, a door adapted to move between an open position allowing access to the interior volume of the enclosure and a closed position for closing the enclosure, a latch moveable between a latched position wherein the latch engages both the door and the

enclosure in a manner to secure the door to the enclosure when the door is in its closed position and an unlatched position wherein relative movement of the door and enclosure is permitted, and an actuator operatively connected to the latch in a manner so that movement of the actuator from a first position to a second position causes the latch to move from its latched position to its unlatched position, the enclosure including a protrusion in the interior volume, the alarm comprising:

a housing with a recess adapted to mate with the protrusion;

an actuator switch adapted to move between a first position and a second position when the actuator moves between its first and second positions;

a circuit in the housing and adapted to sense the position of the actuator switch;

an output, the circuit to drive the output if the actuator switch is in its second position.

37. The alarm according to Claim 36, further comprising a power supply, the actuator switch connecting the power supply to the circuit if the actuator switch is in its second position, the circuit sensing the position of the actuator switch by receiving power from the actuator switch.

38. The alarm according to Claim 36, further comprising a guide, the actuator to slidably engage the guide, whereby the guide prevents relative movement between actuator and the actuator switch in at least one direction.

39. The alarm according to Claim 36, wherein the guide is in the housing.

40. The alarm according to Claim 36, further comprising a lock switch, the container to include a lock to prevent opening of the door when in a first position, to permit opening of the door when in a second position, and to close the lock switch when in its first position, the circuit further adapted to sense the position of the lock switch and to drive the output only if the lock switch is closed and the actuator sensor is in its second condition.

41. The alarm according to Claim 40, wherein the lock switch is in the housing.

42. The alarm according to Claim 40, further comprising the lock switch and the actuator switch are connected in series.

43. The alarm according to Claim 36, further comprising an adaptor coupled to the actuator and to engage the actuator switch when the actuator is in its second position.

44. The alarm according to Claim 36 wherein the protrusion is a lip abutting the door and the recess is a notch.